IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A fuel cell catalyst material containing platinum-containing nitride particles as catalyst particles having a composition substantially represented by

$$AT_xN_u \qquad (1)$$

wherein A contains Pt or Pt and at least one noble metal element selected from the group consisting of Ru, Pd, Au, and Ag; T contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Sn, Mn, Cr, V, Ti, Mo, Nb, Zr, W, Ta, and Hf; and atomic ratios x and u fall within ranges $0 \leqq x \leqq 4$ and $0.005 \leqq u \leqq 1$, respectively, an average diameter of the catalyst particles being 0.5 nm to 500 nm.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Original): A material according to claim 1, wherein an average diameter of the catalyst particles is 0.5 nm to 50 nm.

Claim 4 (Original): A material according to claim 1, wherein a content of the at least one noble metal element in the element A is not more than 60 at%.

Claim 5 (Original): A material according to claim 1, wherein the atomic ratio x falls within a range $0.25 \leqq x \leqq 4$.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A membrane electrode assembly comprising an anode electrode including an anode catalyst layer, a cathode electrode including a cathode

catalyst layer, and an electrolyte layer provided between the anode electrode and cathode electrode,

wherein at least one of the anode and cathode catalyst layers contains platinum-containing nitride particles as catalyst particles substantially represented by

$$AT_xN_u \qquad (1)$$

wherein A contains Pt or Pt and at least one noble metal element selected from the group consisting of Ru, Pd, Au, and Ag; T contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Sn, Mn, Cr, V, Ti, Mo, Nb, Zr, W, Ta, and Hf, and atomic ratios x and u fall within ranges $0 \leqq x \leqq 4$ and $0.005 \leqq u \leqq 1$, respectively, an average diameter of the catalyst particles being 0.5 nm to 500 nm.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A fuel cell comprising an anode electrode including an anode electrode collector and an anode catalyst layer supported by the anode electrode collector, a cathode electrode including a cathode electrode collector facing the anode electrode collector with the anode catalyst layer interposed therebetween and a cathode catalyst layer supported by the cathode electrode collector and interposed between the anode electrode and the cathode electrode collector, and an electrolyte layer provided between the anode electrode and cathode electrode,

wherein at least one of the anode and cathode catalyst layers contains platinum-containing nitride particles as catalyst particles substantially represented by

$$AT_xN_u \qquad (1)$$

wherein A contains Pt or Pt and at least one noble metal element selected from the group consisting of Ru, Pd, Au, and Ag; T contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Sn, Mn, Cr, V, Ti, Mo, Nb, Zr, W, Ta, and Hf, and atomic

ratios $\underline{x}$ and $\underline{u}$ fall within ranges $0 \leqq x \leqq 4$ and $0.005 \leqq u \leqq 1$, respectively, an average diameter of the catalyst particles being 0.5 nm to 500 nm.

Claims 8-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A material according to claim 1, wherein the atomic ratio x falls within a range $0.2 \leq x \leq 4$.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A material according to claim 1, further containing conductive particles supporting the catalyst particles.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A material according to claim 21, wherein the conductive particles include carbon-based powder.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): An assembly according to claim 6, wherein an average diameter of the catalyst particles is 0.5 nm to 50 nm.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): An assembly according to claim 6, wherein a content of the at least one noble metal element in the element A is not more than 60 at%.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): An assembly according to claim 6, wherein the atomic ratio x falls within a range $0.2 \leq x \leq 4$.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): An assembly according to claim 6, wherein said at least one of the anode and cathode catalyst layers containing the catalyst particles further contains conductive particles supporting the catalyst particles.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): An assembly according to claim 26, wherein the conductive particles include carbon-based powder.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A cell according to claim 7, wherein an average diameter of the catalyst particles is 0.5 nm to 50 nm.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A cell according to claim 7, wherein a content of the at least one noble metal element in the element A is not more than 60 at%.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A cell according to claim 7, wherein the atomic ratio x falls within a range $0.2 \leq x \leq 4$.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A cell according to claim 7, wherein said at least one of the anode and cathode catalyst layers containing the catalyst particles further contains conductive particles supporting the catalyst particles.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A cell according to claim 31, wherein the conductive particles include carbon-based powder.

Claim 33 (New): A material according to claim 1, wherein an average diameter of the particles is 1 nm to 10 nm.